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Weekly Summary

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The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, the Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents.

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17 Argentina: Military Role Grows

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Comments and queries on the contents of this publication are welcome. They may be directed to the editor of the Weekly Summary,

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ARGENTINA: MILITARY ROLE GROWS

President Peron, still fighting to remain in office, is temporarily benefiting from increased military participation in the anti-terrorist struggle.

Military leaders seem pleased that the administration finally acceded to their long-standing wish for greater participation in the counterinsurgency effort. The armed forces are acting on the basis of last month's presidential decrees establishing national defense and internal security councils. Intensified counterinsurgency operations may divert those officers who otherwise might be plotting against the President.

In recent weeks, the police and the military services have carried out large-scale operations in Tucuman Province, long a terrorist stronghold. They have also conducted numerous searches in urban and rural areas elsewhere, and road and highway checkpoints have been set up all over the country. Hundreds of suspected subversives reportedly have been arrested, and some have been killed in sweeps that for the first time have been supported by helicopters and other aircraft.

For the moment, the increased military role in the conterinsurgency effort seems to be alleviating the pressure on Peron. In the longer run, however, it could pave the way for greater military influence in national affairs. 3.5(c)

Searching operation against Argentine terrorists

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